

# Walk With Israel Draws 20,000 As Israel-Haters Fume

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By TheJ.ca Staff

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## Jewish community in Toronto celebrates Zionism



Flags of Israel and Canada flew high, while cheering, songs, and calls of 'Am Israel Chai' rung out in Toronto on Sunday when the UJA Walk With Israel resumed after a 3 year hiatus. (Photo: Consulate General of Israel in Toronto Facebook)

The return of the UJA Walk With Israel in Toronto was a tremendous success as the pro-Israel community reunited for the largest Jewish event since the Covid-19 pandemic. As the crowd gathered at Earl Bales Park at 9 AM, the enthusiasm and excitement was evident.

"At a time when Israelis face a new wave of terrorism and here in Toronto we're facing growing antisemitism, the Walk demonstrates that we're united and proud," said Rob Kumer, 2022 Walk with Israel co-chair with Barbara Schechter, before the event.

“The Walk represents community,” added Barbara. “COVID made people feel isolated and alone. The Walk reminds everyone we’re a vibrant and strong community.”

The important role of dedicated volunteers to help conduct the event was also recognized.

“After the Walk, we Party!” – and they sure did.

An afternoon of fun, food, and family-friendly activities at the Renee and Irwin Nadal Walk Party was part and parcel of the celebration at the Toronto Heschel School. Featuring performances by Magen Boys Entertainment, Sonshine and Broccoli, Mega Magic Magicians and Zeca Polin, the party also included inflatable rides, carnival games and a petting zoo.

The presence of important Jewish organizations, brought together in a unified voice to support the Jewish homeland, was a significant aspect of the Walk. Among the groups were BBYO, Hasbara Fellowships Canada, Hillel Ontario, Jewish Addiction Community Services, Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Centre, B’Nai Brith Canada, and CIJA.

Needless to say, politicians were in abundance, including federal Conservative leadership candidates Pierre Poilievre and Roman Baber, Thornhill MP Melissa Lantsman, Toronto Councilor James Pasternak, outgoing MPP Gila Martow, and Ontario PC hopefuls Michael Kerzner, Stan Cho, Laura Smith, and Robin Martin.

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A key component of the event is that it raises money for needed programs to assist the residents of places like Bat Yam, Sderot, and Eilat in Israel.

As UJA explained, “Every year, dollars raised through the Walk help make Israel a safer and better home.” The monies go towards a variety of services including emergency aid for victims of terror and scholarship and employment programs in at-risk communities.

But as with any public demonstration supporting Israel that is conducted in North America nowadays, anti-Zionist cranks showed up to try to detract from the joyous atmosphere and media coverage.



The positive vibes and communal atmosphere at the UJA Walk With Israel got under the skin of marginal and unhinged anti-Zionists, including a performative Haredi turncoat who protested alongside mujahedeen wanna-be's. (Screenscaps: IG)

A BDS counter-protest was held in the Sheppard Plaza parking lot, organized by a "registered Canadian non-profit organization". The annual hatefest brought together the usual suspects.

A video pitch for Israel-haters to attend claimed, "We need to show Zionists there is no pride in celebrating genocide, ethnic cleansing and apartheid. Free Free Palestine, From the River to the Sea."

Some participants at the UJA Walk witnessed a fringe Neturei Karta protester, imported from New York, demonstrating with a sign stating 'Israel must go'. The deranged anti-Israeli cult again played the role of useful idiots for pro-Palestinian agitators, burning an Israeli flag as Islamists dressed up as mujahedeen chanted "Zionism is terrorism."

"When a rabbi burns the #zionist #israeli flag with pride, you know the @stateofisrael is a fraud & false" claimed the so-called "human rights" group on social media, complimenting the 'rabbi' for "showing the real face of Judaism."